

PH 008-10

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas	
COUNTY:	Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 29 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Downtown Ottawa Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: East side of the 200 block of South Main street, plus  
135 South Main

CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kansas	66067	Franklin	059
	20		

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

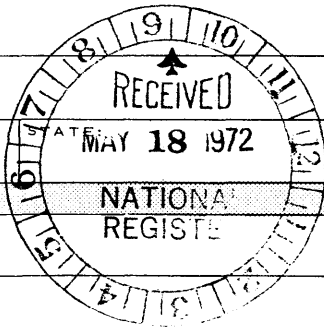
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Franklin County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa

STATE	CODE
Kansas 66067	20

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

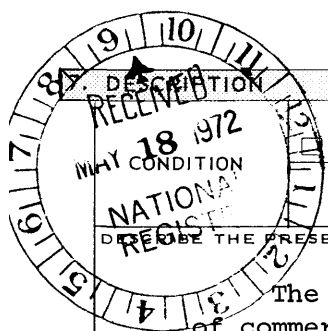
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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DESCRIPTION		(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
PHYSICAL CONDITION		(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE					

The Downtown Ottawa Historic District is a contiguous group of commercial structures located on the east side of the 200 block of Main street and built within the same general time span in the late nineteenth century. While each building is individualistic in appearance and detail, all have the same general underlying style and character typical of many small communities in mid-America. The uniqueness of this district lies in its almost unaltered facades and its great aesthetic compatibility.

The district is flanked on the north by the old People's National Bank which is situated at the south end of the 100 block of Main. The People's National Bank is a three-story building with Renaissance influences. Its walls are constructed of gray-brown brick with cut stone trim. A large stamped metal cornice with coupled brackets and dentils terminates the building at the roof line. The main entrance is located at the corner and is accented by flanking columns and a pedimented roof. Windows on the first floor are simple rectangles and are flanked by matching brick pilasters. Windows on the second and third floors are of the double hung sash type with stone sills and lintels. The lintels are shallow multifaced arches with integral keystones.

The Ring, Barker and Smith Building (Terrill's Dry Goods) at 201-203 Main is a three-story structure designed in the Renaissance style with Eclectic leanings. The walls are constructed of dark red face brick with ornate cut stone trim. The building is crowned with a large stamped metal cornice with corner turrets, coupled brackets and small pointed arches. Immediately below the cornice is a band of decorative brickwork accented with recessed cross-like designs. A large pediment protrudes above the roof line at the center of the building's front. Windows on the first floor are of typical store front glass with cast iron columns. The second and third floor windows are narrow rectangles with shallow arched heads. The windows are separated by corbeled-out brick pilasters which have cut stone capitals. The window sills are cut stone and extend partially up each side. The cut stone lintels are ornamented with an intricate bas-relief design.

The O. K. Photo building at 205 Main is a three-story Renaissance structure built of green-painted face brick. The building cornice is of stamped metal with large coupled brackets and a low relief design. The windows on the first floor are large glass show windows. The second and third floor windows are small double hung sash with stone sills and arched stone lintels. The lintels extend down around the sides of the windows and terminate in rolled brackets.

The Sutton Jewelry building at 207 Main is a three-story structure designed in the Renaissance style. The walls are constructed of green-and tan-painted face brick with cut stone trim. The roof line is accented by a large stamped metal cornice with a center pediment. The first floor is a simple store front configuration. The second floor windows are slender rectangles with

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**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1872-1917

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The city of Ottawa in Franklin county was laid out in 1864 on two half sections of land on the Marais des Cygnes river. This was an area formerly part of the Osage and later the Ottawa Indian reservations. Title to the land passed from the Ottawas in 1864 when the tribe set aside 20,000 acres in trust to help establish Ottawa University. Portions of the trust lands were soon acquired by white settlers and investors, and the Ottawa Town Company was formed later the same year. The leading men of the town company were Rev. C. C. Hutchinson, the Indian agent, and Rev. I. S. Kalloch. Other prominent local members were John T. "Tauy" Jones, a Baptist minister and Indian leader, and James Wind, chief of the Ottawas.

The town site was surveyed in the spring of 1864 by Edward Wolcott. Early settlers pitched tents, and the first frame house was built on March 31. The prime objective of the town company was to secure the location of the Franklin county seat, and lots were given away as an inducement for people to locate there and support the courthouse drive.

An election on August 1, 1864, to determine the site of the county seat resulted in an overwhelming victory for Ottawa over three other contenders. Ottawa received 261 votes, Peoria 40, Ohio City 36, and Centropolis 1. The county records were officially moved to Ottawa from Ohio City on August 15, 1864. According to the county clerk, at the time he moved his office Ottawa "consisted of 15 or 20 dwellings, one store kept by an Ottawa Indian, and a large barn used for a hotel."

Frame business buildings were constructed on Main street in the 1860's. And as the town grew--from 3,000 in 1870 to 6,200 in 1890--and prospered, merchants and entrepreneurs began building more substantial brick and stone structures in the 1870's and 1880's. By the 1890's both sides of Main street were lined for several blocks with two and three story buildings of brick and stone. Many of them featured large highly ornate metal pediments and cornices and decorative window lintels.

Today Ottawa is a growing community of 12,500 and its business district has changed with the passage of time and the development of new attitudes and tastes in architecture. Many of the 19th century commercial structures have been modified or replaced, and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bards and Company's Business Directory (Kansas City, Mo., Bards and Co., 1900), pp. 318-327.  
 Blackmar, Frank W., compiler, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 2, pp. 423, 424.  
 Corwin, E. H., Souvenir Views Ottawa, Kansas (Columbus, Ohio, Ward Bros., 1889).  
 "History of Ottawa," The High School Opinion, v. 4, no. 8 (May, 1898), pp. 107-111. (published by Ottawa High School)  
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 601-613.

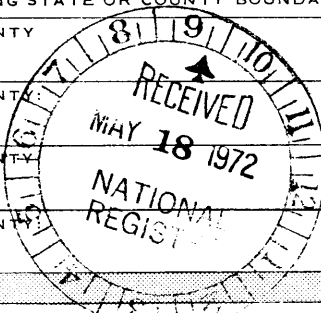
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38° 36' 57"	95° 16' 06"		0		
NE	38° 36' 52"	95° 16' 06"				
SE	38° 36' 52"	95° 16' 03"				
SW	38° 36' 57"	95° 16' 03"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Two acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



72  
15/3225  
15/427628

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant**  
**Richard Pankratz, Planner**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **May 4, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West Tenth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas 66612** CODE: **20**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Nyle H. Miller  
 Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date May 8, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/29/72

ATTEST: William A. Sturges  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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7. decorative stone lintels. The lintels are flat with small pediments in the center. The third floor windows are also slender rectangles but with curved lintels. These lintels have arched pediments in the center. The windows are separated by a two-story brick pilaster.

The Pickrell Block (Plaza Theater) at 209-211 Main is a two-story brick and stone structure which now has a smooth, white-painted stucco exterior. A large theater marquee and a sidewalk awning have been added to the front.

Raffelock's Bargain Center building at 213 Main is a simple two-story structure with Renaissance features. The walls are constructed of white-glazed bricks with a rough hewn stone cap at the eaves. A large bay window flanked by two smaller windows at the second floor level provides an accent for the facade. The bay is three-sided with rectangular windows and an ornamental stamped bottom. The main store front is glass with a side entrance.

The Ottawa Typewriter building at 215 Main is a Renaissance-influenced two-story structure of face brick painted light gray. The dominant feature is a large stamped metal cornice which occurs at the roof line and is terminated at each end by a large bracket. At its center is a broken semicircular arch. Low relief further enhances the cornice. A band of brick corbeling sets the cornice apart from the wall below. The second floor windows are narrow rectangles with stone sills and ornamental cast iron lintels. Each lintel has a simulated keystone and end brackets.

Harley's Block (Bob's Squire Shoppe) at 217 Main is an Eclectic structure built of face brick laid in decorative patterns. Accenting the roof line is a large stamped metal cornice which has end brackets, triangular recesses, and a semicircular pediment in the middle. The second floor windows are located in recesses which have shallow arched tops and fluted brick pilasters. A cut stone is placed at the spring line of each arch. Massive cast iron lintels accent the rectangular windows.

A building occupied by the J. C. Penney Co. store at 219 Main is a two-story structure in the Renaissance style. The walls are constructed of red face brick which has been covered with stucco. The second story windows are narrow rectangles with curved arches at the top. The cast iron lintels have integral keystones and extend partially down the sides of the windows. They also protrude from the building facade.

The old Boston Store building at 221 Main (now part of the J. C. Penney Co. store) is a three-story Renaissance structure with Classical detailing. The walls are constructed of rough faced stone and smooth cut stone with brick accents. Cut stone pilasters run the full height of the upper two stories and end in capitals which support the stone above. The spandrels and the



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7. infill above the top windows are of face brick laid in a diagonal pattern to produce a decorative effect. The cornice is a simple cut stone affair with little detail. Window openings on the second and third floors are simple rectangles with double hung sash windows located between the two-story pilasters. Arch forms terminate the window openings at the cornice.

The Lee Sheldon's Men's Store at 225 Main is a one-story Neo-Vernacular structure with a facade of face brick. Either this building replaced a two-story stone structure which is visible in pictures taken as late as 1909, or the present small building was modified from the earlier one.

The Village Shoppe building at 227 Main is a two-story Eclectic structure built of brown-painted face brick. Terminating the facade is a stamped metal cornice which has a triangular pediment in the center and is flanked by end brackets. The rectangular second floor windows are recessed in brick returns. Corbeled brackets enhance the top of each recessed area.

The Downtowner Cafe at 229 Main is a two-story Renaissance structure with some Eclectic detailing. The walls are constructed of face brick which has been painted tan. A stamped metal cornice bearing the date 1887 terminates the wall at the roof and rests on corbeled brick brackets. The first floor windows are the typical store front type. The second floor windows are rectangles with curved cast iron lintels which extend partially down each side of the windows and have small pediments centered on each.

The Monarch Billiards building at 231 Main is a two-story Renaissance style structure built of face brick. A stamped metal cornice with coupled brackets accents the roof line. The rectangular windows on the second floor are located in recessed brick areas. The top of the recess is decorated by a series of corbeled brick brackets.

The North American Hotel building at the corner of Third and Main provides the flanking element for the south end of the district. This structure is a five-story building constructed of face brick and contrasted with stone accents. A large dentiled cornice terminates the walls. Windows on all the upper stories are paired in rectangular openings. The sills are cut stone, and the lintels are soldier-coursed brick with stone accents at the corners and at the center. Brick pilasters which extend from the second floor level to the cornice give a vertical accent to the facades.

Comparison of photographs taken around the turn of the century with current views reveals the changes which have occurred in the buildings of the Downtown Ottawa Historic District. The most obvious changes are the removal of the large stamped metal cornices from some structures, notably the old Boston Store at 221 Main.



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7. Also gone are the ornamental iron work and balconies which some of the buildings sported at the turn of the century. A number of buildings have different types of signs, some flat against the building and others protruding at right angles from the building. The most altered building is the Pickrell Block at 209-211 Main which formerly had a brick and stone front with decorative metal work and an ornate cornice and pediment but now has a stucco exterior and a theater marquee.

This commercial district is in good condition and is one of the few remaining business areas in Kansas which has not undergone extensive modernization. It is an outstanding extant example of the late nineteenth century commercial development which was formerly so typical in Kansas.

8. others were destroyed by fires. Although there remains a scattering of the old commercial buildings throughout the business district, the only major concentration is the east side of the 200 block of Main street. In addition the proposed architectural district includes the former People's National Bank building at 135 Main. Located just south of this district is the courthouse square with an 1893 brick courthouse, a structure which has previously been entered on the National Register.

Several of the buildings in the district have been considerably altered, most notably the Pickrell Block at 209-211 Main, which now houses the Plaza Theater. However, the majority of the 15 structures have not been extensively altered above the first floor. Sympathetic renovation work has been done on one or two of the buildings, the former Bank of Ottawa building at 207 Main being the best example. Construction dates for buildings in the district range from 1872 for the structure at 205 Main to 1917 for the North American Hotel at the southern limit of the district. Most of the buildings were erected in the 1880's.

The structures in this architectural district had an integral part in Ottawa's commercial development. Many of the leading businesses and prominent professional men of Ottawa either constructed or used the buildings in this district, and the growth of the city was materially aided by the banks and investment firms located here. At least three banks were situated in the area at one time or another: the People's National Bank from 1879 until recently at 135 Main, the Franklin County Bank in the 1870's at 205 Main, and the Bank of Ottawa from 1886 to after the turn of the century at 207 Main. A large number of real estate firms, land companies, and investment companies rented first and second floor office space in this block. Other businesses occupying first floor store rooms prior to 1900 included clothing and dry goods stores, a hardware store, jewelry shops, restaurants, meat markets,



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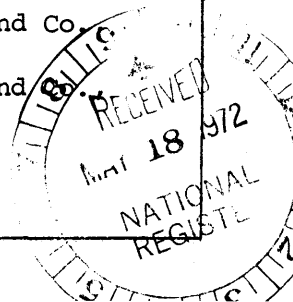
(Number all entries)

8. grocery stores, a harness shop, a hotel, a sporting goods shop, and a furniture store. Second floor office space throughout the district was used by doctors, dentists, lawyers, real estate firms, insurance agencies, cigar manufacturers, milliners, and newspaper and print shops. The Ottawa Opera House, various lodges, clubs, and other organizations such as the Y. M. C. A. had rooms or halls on the second and third floors. And prior to the construction of the Franklin county courthouse in 1893, some of the elected county officials maintained offices in various buildings in the district.

The Franklin County Historical Society is actively working with the property owners in an effort to revitalize the area. Commercial activities are still located in almost all the buildings on the first floor, but many of the structures have second and third floors which are not in use, and the largest building, the five-story North American Hotel, is now vacant. Studies are planned to determine which of the community's needs could be filled by the adaptive restoration of some of these buildings. US-69, a heavily traveled north-south highway, coincides with Main street in Ottawa; therefore the potential for redeveloping the block as an area to attract visitors is being explored. Supporters of the project see it as an effort to make Ottawa unique and to capitalize on a business district different from the metal and glass-fronted commercial districts now so prevalent in every town.

Considered individually, there is little that is unique about the 15 buildings in the Ottawa Historic District. A number of the buildings are rather interesting and attention-getting but in all likelihood do not merit National Register consideration. However, considered as a group, these buildings are unique; at the present time no other such concentration of 19th century commercial structures has yet been located in Kansas by the survey staff. Therefore, the district is deemed to be architecturally significant to the state of Kansas, exemplifying as it does the 19th century Renaissance commercial architecture once so dominant on the main streets of Kansas communities.

9. Kansas State Gazeteer and Business Directory (Kansas City, Mo., R. L. Polk and Co., 1886, 1888, 1890.)  
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STATE	
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9. Ottawa Herald, June 18, 1936.  
 "Ottawa, Kansas," Kansas City Star, March 15, 1914.  
 Ottawa State Press, December 14, 1878.  
Plat Book of Franklin County, Kansas (Minneapolis, Minn., North  
 West Publishing Co., 1903).  
 "The Queen City," Topeka Capital, September 11, 1888.  
 Rathbun, George D., compiler, Directory of Franklin County,  
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Reflections of Franklin County and Chautauqua Days (Ottawa, Kan.,  
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 "Some Concise Facts Concerning Ottawa, Kansas," (n. p., 1885).  
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